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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 25 June 1951

SUBJECT 1. Shortages in DDR Industries  
2. Planned Procurement of Materials from the West

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## SOURCE

Shortages in the DDR

1. The Kraftwerk (power plant) Elbe Vockerode near Dessau is to replace the Golpa-Zschornowitz power plant, since the latter will cease operations by the end of 1951 because of obsolescence of equipment and lack of coal. Construction work on the former is to be completed by 1 October 1951. However, so far it has been impossible to procure boiler tubes, boiler sheets, and fittings. They are to be procured in the DDR.
2. Similar difficulties have been encountered at the Mitteldeutsches Kraftwerk Magdeburg, AG in Magdeburg-Rothensee, August-Bebel-damm. There are serious shortages, too, in steel castings and metal sheet.
3. The shortage of certain materials is being felt in the chemical and power industries. An attempt will be made to procure the following materials in the DDR:
  - a. Copper and lead
  - b. Testing gasoline, sulphur and phenol
  - c. High tension cable
  - d. Ground cable with lead and reinforcing iron
4. The Laval centrifugal machine which was ordered [redacted] for the processing of crude oil in the Mineralölwerke Lützkendorf will not be delivered [redacted]
5. Crude oil from the USSR is to be processed in Benzinwerk Böhlen and in the Carburol plant in Schwarzheide, Brandenburg. New "Sicromal" pipes are lacking for the pipe furnaces and cannot be procured in the eastern bloc or the USSR. These "Sicromal" pipes are to be obtained from West Germany or western countries.
6. The leather-processing industry in the Russian Zone is encountering great difficulties in processing skins, since there is a great shortage of tannic acid. The production of synthetic tannic acid with a phenol base is totally insufficient. Possible production is 650 tons for 1951 as against an actual

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need of a minimum of 1,200 tons. This shortage may lead to the rotting of the skins now lying in the tanning pits. It is hoped to alleviate this situation with purchases of tannic acid in West Germany.

7. The optical industry in the Russian Zone is suffering from a shortage of the following materials:

- a. Platinum
- b. Rock crystal
- c. Drawing diamonds (these are brought in from Switzerland by air via Prague - Berlin)

The platinum was to be supplied by the USSR; however, "insuperable" difficulties have arisen concerning the delivery.

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8. The supply of barium compounds to the Russian Zone industries requiring this commodity is in seriously short supply. The DDR Ministry for Internal and External Trade was unable to supply the industries which need this commodity.

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DDR 1951 Plan for Procurement of Imports from the West

9. The Plan for Procurement of Imports from the West comprises the three following categories:

- a. Procurement attempts to be given every possible support;
- b. Procurement attempts to be supported in all probability;
- c. Procurement not possible (in these cases, attempts will be made to procure the goods from the eastern bloc)

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